Tourism potential of Orissa

1701. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa proposes to go in for a big leap in tourism;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both Indian and foreign tour operators have been visiting this region to promote tourism; and

(c) if so, the details of the help that has been rendered by the Central Government to the cash-strapped Orissa in its mission to improve economy in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The details of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years of the Tenth Plan to the State of Orissa are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of project	Amount sanctioned
	2002-03	
1.	Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur (Distt. Puri)	50.00
2.	Computerization of Offices	7.50
	2003-04	
1.	Development of Puri as a Tourist destination	394.55
	2004-05	
1.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda)	488.51
2.	Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Buddhist Circuit	740.66

Sl. No.	Name of project	Amount sanctioned
3.	Rural Tourism Development of Village Pipli (Distt. Puri) (Hardware)	50.00
4.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Rural Tourism Project at Village Pipli (Distt. Puri) (Software)	20.00
5.	Rural Tourism Development of Village Raghurajpur (Distt. Puri) (Software)	22.00

Tourism projects at Chamundi Hills

1702. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) when did the work on the ropeway to Chamundi Hills begin;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Single Window Agency had approved the ropeway project to a private firm called SIKKA in 1994;

(c) the reasons for the delay in beginning the project;

(d) the amount Government have sanctioned for the project; and

(e) by when the work on the development of Tourism Park will be commenced at the foot of the Chamundi Hills on 50 acres of land which has already been acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No project proposal for ropeway to Chamundi Hills in the State of Karnataka has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Yes, Sir, by the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) The State Government of Karnataka has intimated that there was delay in getting clearances from Forest Department, Pollution Control Board and obtaining land from Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

(d) The State Government has informed that they have not sanctioned any funds. The State Government through the Single Window Agency will only facilitate setting up of the project.

(e) The State Tourism Department has not acquired any land for establishment of Tourism Park. The land which has been identified for development of Tourism Park belongs to the Forest Department.

New projects on rural life

1703. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned 55 projects to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage; and